THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is setting up an oil refinery at Bathinda (Punjab). Crude inputs for the refinery will be transported from Mundra port (Gujarat) through a cross-country pipeline.

(b) and (c) The Company is not aware of any threat from the Government of Rajasthan to block the pipeline to be laid for the proposed refinery.

Visits of leaders of oil producing countries to India

121. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eminent leaders from oil producing countries will be visiting India in the near future to discuss refining and marketing of fuel oil in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Visits by eminent leaders from oil producing countries is an on-going process and, in addition to the large number of Ministers who visited New Delhi in January, 2005 for the Round Table of Asian Oil Ministers, and the visit by the Ecuador Minister for Petro-Tech 2005, we have visits scheduled from Venezuela and indications of visits from the Netherlands, the USA and Turkey. During these visits, cooperation in all streams of the oil sector, including refining and marketing of fuel oil, if brought up by the other side, are likely to be discussed.

Adulteration of petroleum products

122. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is massive adulteration of petroleum products all over the country;

(b) whether it is a fact the PSU Oil companies are unable to control this adulteration;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the staff of Oil PSUs at some level are colluding with the petrol pump owners;